

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Consumer Protection and Safety Division  
Rail Transit Safety Section

Resolution ST-144  
October 25, 2012

**RESOLUTION**

RESOLUTION ST-144 GRANTING APPROVAL OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY SAFETY  
CERTIFICATION PLAN

**SUMMARY**

This Resolution grants the request of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for approval of the Safety Certification Plan for the Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) light rail transit operations consist of the Red, Purple, Blue, Green, and Gold Lines. The LACMTA rail system carries an average of 310,000 passengers per day.

The Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project is a 1.9-mile, dual-track light rail system with three new subway stations that extends the current Blue Line tracks at 7<sup>th</sup>/Metro Center Station to the existing Gold Line Station in the Little Tokyo area of Los Angeles. This new link will provide seamless travel between the two corridors. Passengers will eventually be able to travel without any transfer between Long Beach and Azusa, and between Santa Monica and either Whittier or South El Monte (depending on final alignment selection for the Eastside Extension Phase B Project).

The Connector route alignment begins at the current Blue Line terminus at 7<sup>th</sup>/Metro Center Station and continues underneath Flower Street and Second Street, before transitioning to the existing Gold Line in Little Tokyo

(1<sup>st</sup> and Central). The new subway stations will be located at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Hope, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Broadway, and at 1<sup>st</sup> Street/Central. The new station at 1<sup>st</sup> Street/Central will replace the existing Little Tokyo/ Arts District Station. In Little Tokyo, the alignment transitions to an at-grade alignment at two different portals. One portal serves the northbound branch of the Gold Line, while the other serves the eastbound branch of the Gold Line. Both portals will be located near 1<sup>st</sup> Street/ Alameda.

## **BACKGROUND**

Commission General Order 164-D, *Rules and Regulations Governing State Safety Oversight of Rail Fixed Guideway Systems*, Section 11, *Requirements for Safety Certification Plan*, requires that each Rail Transit Agency (RTA) prepare a project-specific Safety Certification Plan (SCP) for each major project and ensure that all entities involved in design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the project comply with the safety certification process.

The purpose of the SCP is to describe organizational authority and responsibilities, safety certification activities and processes, and documentation requirements and responsibilities. The SCP lists safety critical items and activities that require verification such as safety equipment functionality testing and safety related operational and/or maintenance training. A safety certification verification report (SCVR) is issued by the RTA at project completion as verification of SCP compliance. The SCVR must be approved by CPUC staff (staff) before the project can be placed in service.

On December 5, 2011, LACMTA submitted their plan titled “Safety and Security Certification Plan for the Regional Connector Light Rail Transit Project” to staff for review and requested Commission approval. This report is the Safety Certification Plan for the Regional Connector Transit Corridor project.

Staff reviewed and analyzed the LACMTA SCP and found that it meets SCP requirements set forth in General Order 164-D and the Rail Transit Safety Section Program Management Standard Procedures Manual, State Safety and Security Oversight of Rail Fixed Guideway System Section 9.

**DISCUSSION**

The Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project is one of LACMTA's projects to provide continuous rail service and connectivity for LACMTA passengers between various lines. LACMTA received state and local funding, including Measure R (a half-cent L.A. County sales tax) for the project to construct new tracks, three new stations, an overhead catenary wire system, substations, signaling, switches, crossovers and grade crossing warning devices. The extension provides patrons with an alternative option to driving to reach their destinations along the existing Expo, Blue, or Gold Lines. Construction work is scheduled to begin spring 2014 and is scheduled for completion and revenue service in Year 2019.

Staff reviewed the Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project SCP in accordance with General Order 164-D Section 11, *Requirements for Safety Certification Plan*. The SCP is in compliance with General Order 164-D and staff recommends that the Commission grants approval of the LACMTA SCP.

**NOTICE**

On September 21, 2012, this Resolution was published on the Commission's Daily Calendar.

**COMMENTS**

The draft resolution of the Consumer Protection and Safety Division in this matter was mailed in accordance with Section 311 of the Public Utilities Code and Rule 14.2(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. No comments were received.

**FINDINGS**

1. The Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project connects the existing Blue, Gold, and Expo Lines from the existing 7<sup>th</sup> and Metro Station to the new proposed Little Tokyo Station spanning a total of 1.9 miles.

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2. On December 5, 2011, LACMTA submitted the SCP for the Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project to staff for review and requested Commission approval.
3. On May 22, 2012, staff reviewed and analyzed the content of the SCP and found that it meets the requirements set forth by General Order 164-D Section 11 and Rail Transit Safety Section Program Management Standard Procedures Manual State Safety and Security Oversight of Rail Fixed Guideway System Section 9.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The request of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for approval of the Safety Certification Plan for the Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project is granted.
2. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority shall submit the Safety Certification Verification Report to CPUC staff as required by the Commission General Order 164-D, Section 12, at least 21 days prior to start of revenue service.
3. This resolution is effective today.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed, and adopted by the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 25, 2012. The following Commissioners voted favorably thereon:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ PAUL CLANON\_\_\_\_\_

PAUL CLANON  
Executive Director

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY  
President

TIMOTHY ALAN SIMON

MICHEL PETER FLORIO

CATHERINE K. SANDOVAL

MARK J. FERRON

Commissioners